



**CLAYTON
HALL
ACADEMY**



A part of Windsor
Academy Trust

Headteacher

Mrs Katy Reid Bsc
(Hons), PGCE

Place of registration: England



Clayton Lane, Newcastle under
Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 3DN



01782 367650



office@claytonhall.academy



www.claytonhallacademy.org



@ClaytonHall4094

CRE/JFI

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we move further into the Summer Term, I often find myself reflecting on what this time of year represents. In many ways, it is one of my favourite points in the school calendar. The GCSE examination season marks the culmination of years of hard work and determination, and it is a real privilege to see our students step forward and begin to demonstrate all that they have learned.

Alongside this, my focus is also very much on the future, as we continue to work closely with our incoming **Year 6 students and their families** who will be joining us in September. It is a source of great pride to know that families have chosen Clayton Hall Academy for the next stage of their child's journey, and we have already begun building those important relationships to ensure they feel welcomed, supported and excited for what lies ahead. There is something very special about this time, bringing together both reflection and anticipation, as we celebrate our current students while preparing to welcome the next generation into our school community.

Join us at our community event...

Rather than beginning by looking back on this week, I would like to look ahead to our **WAT a Run 2026¹ community event taking place tomorrow**. We would be delighted to see as many of our families and friends there as possible to support our students, who have put a great deal of time and enthusiasm into preparing a range of fun activities for you. There will also be a fantastic programme of live entertainment too, showcasing the talents of our own students, alongside performances from a new local band and from the award-winning Rock Choir².

As we proudly host the finish line for this inspiring run, we would love you to come along and help **cheer the runners across the line** and join us between **1pm and 3pm (with gates opening at 12.30pm for a special pre-performance)** for what promises to be a really enjoyable and memorable afternoon together. Not only do we hope to raise funds towards our Bed & Breakfast campaign, but we hope to bring our local community together – all are warmly welcomed.

Read more here and watch the video from last year's event, it truly is an uplifting event: [WAT a Run 2026 | Windsor Academy Trust](#)

¹ [WAT a Run 2026 | Windsor Academy Trust](#)

² [www.rockchoir.com](#)

School life this week...

This week marked a significant milestone, with the start of our **Year 11 GCSE examinations**. It is often reassuring for students to get those first exams underway and begin to settle into the rhythm of the exam period. We are very proud of how our students have approached this important stage and continue to remind them that we are here to support them every step of the way. Students remain in school between examinations, and this time is carefully structured to support effective revision. Being in school ensures that expert guidance from staff is readily available, opportunities for focused study are maximised, and students are supported to maintain motivation and productive routines.

We would also encourage families to continue supporting their children at home by helping them to balance revision with rest and ensuring they are well prepared for each day. As previously shared, guidance on preparing for exams, including **helpful routines for the evening before and the day itself**, can be found in our earlier communications. In addition, parents may find the BBC Bitesize[‡] support pages a useful source of advice during this time.

Away from the exam hall, it has been lovely to see students continuing to engage in wider opportunities. A group of 15 students recently visited the **New Vic Theatre** to take part in a workshop and to watch the powerful production *Echoes of Justice*. The performance, based on research into the Bergen-Belsen trials, prompted thoughtful discussion around justice, fairness and acceptance. Students spoke eloquently about the experience, with one commenting on the importance of understanding the injustice faced by others. Opportunities like this play an important role in developing empathy, reflection and a broader understanding of the world.

Meanwhile, it was fantastic to see the progress of our **Year 10 Construction students**, who have been showcasing their developing bricklaying skills this week. Their work demonstrates real care, precision and growing confidence. We are fortunate to have the facilities that enable this kind of practical learning, allowing students to apply their knowledge in a hands-on way while building valuable skills and a strong sense of pride in their achievements.

Looking ahead...

Looking ahead to the upcoming half-term, I am pleased to share some ideas from **Newcastle Library**, offering a range of activities for younger students and families. These provide a great way for students to relax, explore new interests and take a well-earned break from their studies.

Further ahead still, we have an exciting and rather unique opportunity to share. A television production company, Avalon - known for programmes such as *Taskmaster* – has contacted us. They are currently seeking households to take part in a new Channel 4 show, with filming planned for the October half-term. We are told that families would take part together in a series of creative and enjoyable challenges from home, with the chance to win a cash prize.

[‡] As recommended by the NHS: [Bitesize Parenting - advice for parents from BBC Bitesize](#).

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Of course, while I cannot personally vouch for how successful the programme may be, it certainly sounds like it could be a lot of fun for those who choose to take part! Further details, including how to apply, can be found in their flyer (attached).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope to see many of you at tomorrow's event, and I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Reid', followed by a horizontal line.

CATY REID

Headteacher

Encs: WAT a Run 2026 flyer
Newcastle Library flyer
Avalon Flyer & parent letter

Dates for your diary:

Sat 16 May	ALL WELCOME - Community event - WAT a Run 2026 (further info at WAT a Run 2026 Windsor Academy Trust)
Thurs 4 Jun	Info Evening for Parents - Switzerland trip (further info from awhite@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Thurs 11 Jun	Year 8 Big Bang Fayre trip (further info from cashton@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Fri 12 Jun	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (further info from www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/school-age-immunisation-service)
Mon 22 - Tues 23 Jun	DofE Bronze Practice Expedition (further info from tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Wed 24 Jun	Year 11 Prom (tickets on sale in Arbor 'shop')
Fri 26 Jun	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Mon 6 Jul - Tues 7 Jul	DofE Bronze Final Expedition (further info from tlongshaw@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Mon 13 Jul - Fri 17 Jul	Year 10 Switzerland trip (further info from awhite@claytonhall.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
Fri 17 July	Term ends